

Rebecca F. Denlinger *Fire Chief*

Sam D. Heaton *Deputy Fire Chief*
Randy Crider *Deputy Fire Chief*
1595 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4021
www.cobbfire.org



COBB COUNTY FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Tom Simler *Fire Marshal*
tom.simler@cobbcounty.org
Jay Westbrook *Deputy Fire Marshal*
jay.westbrook@cobbcounty.org
phone: (770) 528-8310 • fax: (770) 528-8320

Aboveground Tank Requirements

The following requirements shall govern the installation of aboveground tanks in locations other than heavy industrial (for heavy industrial, see NFPA 30):

Permitting Procedures

1. Any tank, larger than 25 gallons of Class I liquids, and/or 120 gallons Class II and III liquids shall be permitted.
2. Three sets of plans shall be submitted to the Cobb County Fire Marshal's Office for approval. Plans shall show all of the requirements of the appropriate NFPA standards. The following is a list of the most common requirements:
 - a. **Site plan showing location of tank with distance from tank to buildings, property lines, other tanks, etc.**
 - b. Foundation tank to be mounted on, and method of securing tank to foundation.
 - c. If tank is inside of a structure, need structural plans of room, showing fire rating of walls, floors and doors, distance of tank to walls or other objects in the room. Provide engineering letter documenting room has proper ventilation to prevent dangerous levels of vapors forming.
 - d. Tank specifications: **size of tank, tank type, material tank is made of, normal and emergency vents, fill tube that extends within 6 inches of bottom of tank, appropriate alarms, UL approved, etc.**
 - e. Piping material, if applicable
 - f. Tank rupture containment method
 - g. Vehicle impact protection in accordance with section 312 of the 2003 International Fire Code.
 - h. Location of 40BC fire extinguisher, maximum 30 ft from tank.
 - i. Tank shall be labeled with type of product, i.e., DIESEL, GASOLINE, etc. Letters shall be a minimum six inches high on a contrasting background. Tank shall be labeled on any side a vehicle can approach it, or a minimum of two sides, whichever is greater.
 - j. Spill control method for tanks larger than 660 gallons, equal to 110% of largest compartment of delivery vehicle. State Fire Marshal's Office will look at this.
3. All tank plans shall be approved by the appropriate zoning office prior to being sent to the Fire Marshal's Office for review. The following is a list of zoning offices phone numbers:
 - Acworth 770-974-3112
 - Kennesaw 770-424-8274
 - Cobb County 770-528-2078
 - Powder Springs 770-943-1666
4. After zoning has approved plans, schedule a plan review appointment with the Cobb County Fire Marshal's Office by calling 770.528.8312. A Tank Permit application shall accompany all plans. There is a \$50.00 fee per tank, not to exceed \$150.00 per application.

5. All tanks over 660 gallons shall go to the State Fire Marshal's Office for approval, **after** Cobb County approval. The State Fire Marshal's Office is located at:
2 Martin Luther King, JR Drive
Suite 620 West Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334
You can call Robert Jackson at 404-656-9798 for more information.

Cobb County Code; Section 54-54.1, Tanks; fuel

(a) Zoning and Protection

- (1) No aboveground tanks shall be installed in residentially zoned areas, except as to any Cobb County Fire Stations that may be located in any such residentially zoned area;
- (2) Tanks will be limited to 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel and 660 gallons of gasoline in non-residential areas zoned other than heavy industrial. (See state requirements for heavy industrial, Chapter 120-3-11, and NFPA 30);
- (3) All tanks storing gasoline will be a vaulted type tank that is projectile resistant and vehicle impact resistant as certified by Underwriters Laboratories or other recognized testing labs;
- (4) The size of the tank may be increased by the Cobb Fire Marshal after review of tank site plans and tank construction plans; and,
- (5) All aboveground tanks must be approved for aboveground use by Underwriters Laboratories or other recognized testing labs.

(b) Permit

- (1) All tanks will be permitted through the Cobb County Fire Marshal's Office.
- (2) Permit fee will be \$50.00 per tank (not to exceed \$150.00);
- (3) Fines assessed for failure to obtain a permit will be \$1,000.00; and,
- (4) Fines assessed for failure to call for an inspection will be \$500.00.

Additional Requirements per AHJ

1. In addition to the requirements listed in this document, all tanks shall meet the applicable NFPA Codes and State Modifications, requirements. NFPAs: 30, 30A, 37, 110, and Chapters: 120-3-11, 120-3-16 are the primary codes and modifications that cover tanks.
2. Distance of tank to property line:
 - Diesel; 275 gallons or less, minimum 10 feet., 276 – 750 gallons, minimum 20 feet, 751 – 1,000 gallons, minimum 30 feet. NFPA 30, table 2-1, 1996 edition
Over 1,000 gallons, see diesel tanks over 1,000 gallons (page 3)
 - Gasoline; Up to 25 gallons, minimum 15 feet (per AHJ)
26 – 660 gallons, minimum 50 feet, tank shall be two hour fire rated, projectile resistant and vehicle impact resistant, (per AHJ)
 - Other; See the appropriate NFPA manual
3. Distance of tank to nearest important building on same property:
 - Diesel; Up to 1,000 gallons, minimum 10 feet (per AHJ)
Over 1,000 gallons, see diesel tanks over 1,000 gallons (page 3)
 - Gasoline; Up to 25 gallons, minimum 10 feet (per AHJ)
26 – 660 gallons, minimum 25 feet, tank shall be two hour fire rated, projectile resistant and vehicle impact resistant, (per AHJ)
 - Other; See the appropriate NFPA manual

4. Tanks over 660 gallons of gasoline **shall not** be allowed on sites other than heavy industrial.
5. Tanks shall be secured against tampering and unauthorized use. An 6 foot high chain link fence, separated from the tank by at least 10 feet, and having a gate that is properly secured or other means shall be used to secure the tank.
6. Belly tanks on generators are considered aboveground tanks, but do not require fencing if the generator shroud is lockable to prevent tampering with the tank.

Diesel Tanks Over the 1,000 Gallon Limit of 54-54

1. Tanks over 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel may be allowed, upon approval of the Fire Marshal if the above listed requirements, and the following requirements are met.
2. **Diesel tanks over 1,000 gallons, shall be installed underground unless the topography does not permit such placement. If tanks cannot be placed underground, a letter from a certified engineer will be required stating such.**
3. Tanks that cannot be located underground, shall be located as follows:
 - 50 feet from the nearest important building on the same property
 - 50 feet from a fuel dispenser
 - 50 feet from the nearest public way
 - 100 feet from property line that is or may be built upon, including the opposite side of a public way
 - Distances may be reduced $\frac{1}{2}$ if tank is 2 hour rated (UL2085).
 - The above distances are referenced from NFPA 30A, 2-4.2.2, 1996 edition, and are required by the AHJ for any diesel tank that does not comply with Cobb County Ordinance 54-54.1.
4. Under no circumstances, shall an aboveground diesel tank larger than 6,000 gallons, be allowed in an area other than heavy industrial.
5. If for any reason the above listed requirements cannot be met, each tank will be looked at on a case by case basis.

If you have any questions about this document, contact the Deputy Fire Marshal at 770-528-8328.